

WE HEAR YOU



CITIZEN SUMMIT II TOP THEMES

The Citizen Summit II provided residents with an opportunity to advise the government on the current and future direction of the city. Citizens expressed cautious optimism about the many changes throughout the District. More importantly, citizens recognized a need to develop a sense of shared responsibility for rebuilding the District together. The city is responding to the following citizen identified priorities by including them in the City-Wide Strategic Plan, the mayor's proposed budget and scorecards for agencies and their directors. For more information on the scorecards visit www.dc.gov.



1. There is an urgent need for a full spectrum of affordable housing.
2. The city's leadership must make our children's education a top priority.
3. The role of citizen involvement needs to be expanded, moving toward genuine self-government.
4. Health care services remain a major concern for citizens.
5. Youth need to be given better opportunities.
6. Senior citizens need more support.
7. We must do a better job in embracing and supporting the diversity of our population.
8. Economic growth must continue, but in a balanced way.
9. People continue to feel unsafe in their neighborhoods.
10. Consistent follow-through is needed to make the neighborhood planning and neighborhood services initiatives successful.
11. Government is working better and needs to work even better.



NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION

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ONE CITY, ONE FUTURE

SETTING PRIORITIES
NEIGHBORHOOD BY
NEIGHBORHOOD



ANTHONY A. WILLIAMS, MAYOR
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Prepared for the
State of the District Address
March 5, 2002



BUILDING ONE CITY

Our city, the District of Columbia, is a mosaic of distinctive neighborhoods, beautiful parks and ethnic diversity – all surrounding our Nation's seat of government. It is a breathtakingly beautiful city.

Today, our neighborhoods are cleaner and safer than they were a few years ago. Residents are coming together across north and south – across the Anacostia River – to develop and implement a shared vision for our city. From church halls to city hall, their voices are being heard.

Regardless of geographic location, age, gender or ethnic background, the people of the District speak with one voice: we must put our children's education and the vitality of our neighborhoods at the top of the priority list.

Neighborhood Action is my commitment to change the way we do business, my commitment to building one city with one shining future we all can share.



NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITMENTS

The following are samples of commitments requested by citizens and, in response, made by the government.

Ward 1: Affordable housing and tenant assistance

- The District will help finance almost 700 homes and apartments affordable to families earning less than \$51,000 a year. Another 100 affordable homes are planned for Columbia Heights.
- Vacant and abandoned properties in Columbia Heights will be targeted for redevelopment.
- A city-wide housing service center will support low and moderate-income residents, especially those who feel that their rights under the Rental Housing Act have been violated.

Ward 2: Affordable housing and first-time homeownership

- More than 535 homes and apartments will be developed at Mount Vernon Square with 160 of these homes affordable to low-income families.
- A tax credit will be made available to low-income, long-term homeowners so they are not forced out of their neighborhoods when property taxes rise.
- Vacant and abandoned property in Shaw and LeDroit Park will be targeted for redevelopment.

Ward 3: Effective traffic management

- Traffic studies will be conducted on the Connecticut Avenue corridor, the Palisades neighborhood, and Friendship Heights.
- Based on input from the community, traffic calming measures will be implemented throughout Ward 3.
- Pedestrian safety markers will be installed in areas identified by Advisory Neighborhood Commissions.

Ward 4: Neighborhood economic development and public safety

- The Georgia Avenue Business Resource Center will support small businesses and local retailers.
- Grants are available to help qualified community organizations launch commercial revitalization initiatives.
- Traffic enforcement will be increased in problem areas identified by neighborhood residents.
- Ward 4 Police Service Areas will be fully staffed and the "Policing for Prevention" program will continue to work with residents on neighborhood crime prevention programs.
- The Metropolitan Police Department will implement a Youth Problem Solving Partnership.

Ward 5: Public safety and additional recreational opportunities

- Illegal dumping on grounds throughout the Ward will be strictly enforced.
- Narcotics violations will be strictly enforced in open air drug markets.
- The recreation center at Michigan Park will be completed.
- Park benches, trashcans and landscaping will be upgraded.

Ward 6: Neighborhood economic development and transportation

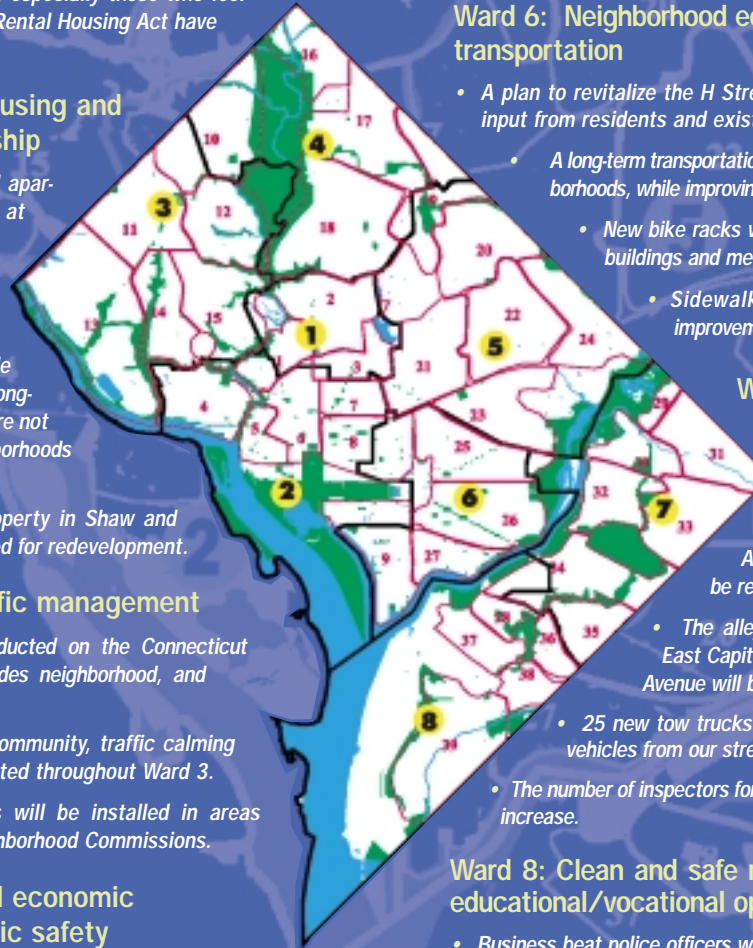
- A plan to revitalize the H Street, NE corridor will be developed with input from residents and existing retailers.
- A long-term transportation plan will focus on calming traffic in neighborhoods, while improving the flow of traffic towards downtown
- New bike racks will be installed near stores, government buildings and metro stations.
- Sidewalks, streets and alleys long in need of improvement will be repaired or resurfaced.

Ward 7: Street and sidewalk repair and removal of abandoned vehicles

- Kenilworth Avenue between Eastern Avenue and Nannie Helen Burroughs Avenue and the Benning Road Bridge will be repaved.
- The alleys and sidewalks along Benning Road, East Capitol Street, St. Louis Street, and Southern Avenue will be targeted for improvement.
- 25 new tow trucks will be available to remove abandoned vehicles from our streets more quickly.
- The number of inspectors for commercial and residential property will increase.

Ward 8: Clean and safe neighborhoods and increasing educational/vocational opportunities

- Business beat police officers will work with merchants and residents to address crime activity along the Martin Luther King, Jr., Avenue commercial corridor including patrol by a foot officer from 10 am to 6 pm.
- To clean up vacant lots, inspectors will cite the owner and put a lien on the property for cost of clean up.
- Ballou High School will provide literacy services to adults.
- The Washington Highlands Library will offer homework assistance and Family Literacy activities.



TURNING IDEAS INTO ACTION

Neighborhood Action brings together neighbors and gives them a voice in setting priorities for the city and the communities they call home. In each ward, Neighborhood Planning Coordinators help residents envision goals for their community and find the best way to achieve these goals. Neighborhood Service Coordinators work closely with residents and service agencies to solve persistent and difficult problems such as high crime areas and abandoned buildings. Outreach Coordinators work to help residents become involved and stay informed about the priority issues in their community.

Additionally, Neighborhood Action has recently been joined in its efforts by the Commission on National and Community Service and the Office of Partnerships and Grants Development. The Commission coordinates volunteers and community projects in support of the City-Wide Strategic Plan (CWSP). Partnerships and Grants Development identifies partners and financial resources to assist agencies in fulfilling their commitment to the CWSP.

Through Neighborhood Action, we are building one city where:

- neighbors and District agencies develop innovative approaches to long-standing problems; and
- advisory neighborhood commissioners, residents, businesses and community leaders chart an achievable course of progress for their community.